

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

Every Tuesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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Electricity, Life & Soul of the Party

FUN AND GAMES WITH THE SCIENTISTS

When a group of electrical scientists apply their skill to organising a children's party the results are sure to be spectacular. Such a party was held recently at the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company at Wembley, and a C N correspondent who was lucky enough to be invited here describes some of the fun and thrills provided.

THE party was given by the Laboratory Staff Social Club, and as all the equipment used could be dismantled afterwards and returned to its proper place, they were able to arrange displays which would normally cost thousands of pounds to produce.

They were able, for instance, to duplicate one of Dick Barton's adventures, his search for the stolen radium. The laboratory search turned into one of the best treasure hunts I have ever seen. Instead of radium, which emits a dangerous gamma ray, another radio-active but harmless beta ray source had been hidden.

CAT AND MOUSE

IF you step into the home of Archie Millar, aged 12, of Cambuslang, Lanarkshire, you need not be surprised to see a small grey mouse playing perkily between the paws of a cat.

The reason for this surprising state of affairs is that some time ago Archie received as a gift the mouse, which he named Mickey. A little troubled in his mind as to how Mickey would get on with Frisky, the household cat, Archie took the mouse home and showed it to the astonished Frisky. At once the cat crouched and was about to spring when Archie stopped him and indicated by gestures that the mouse was not to be touched.

Frisky is an intelligent cat and adores his master, so it was not long before he accepted the curious position. Indeed the two animals are now quite fond of each other, and Micky's favourite game is to run up and down Frisky's back.

Jumping Was No Joke

SERIOUS concern was shown recently at the zoo in Wellington, New Zealand, when Willie, a giant kangaroo from the Melbourne Zoo, showed no signs of hopping; no amount of coaxing could stir Willie into a jump.

An inspection finally revealed a rheumatic condition in the back muscles similar to fibrositis, and a course of massage with liniment was instituted for several weeks. Willie is now a perfectly healthy hopper.

HER REWARD

As a reward for her excellent progress at the Epsom Girls' Grammar School in Auckland, New Zealand, a 17-year-old blind pupil, Lenor Gardiner, has been presented by the local Rotary Club with the typewriter used by Miss Helen Keller during her recent New Zealand tour.

WHEN WE SHIVER

Our Quick-Change Climate

ON a recent day the weather was quite mild, with the thermometer registering around 50 degrees. Next day, however, the thermometer had tumbled to around freezing point, representing a drop in temperature of nearly twenty degrees. Where did the stored heat in the atmosphere go to?

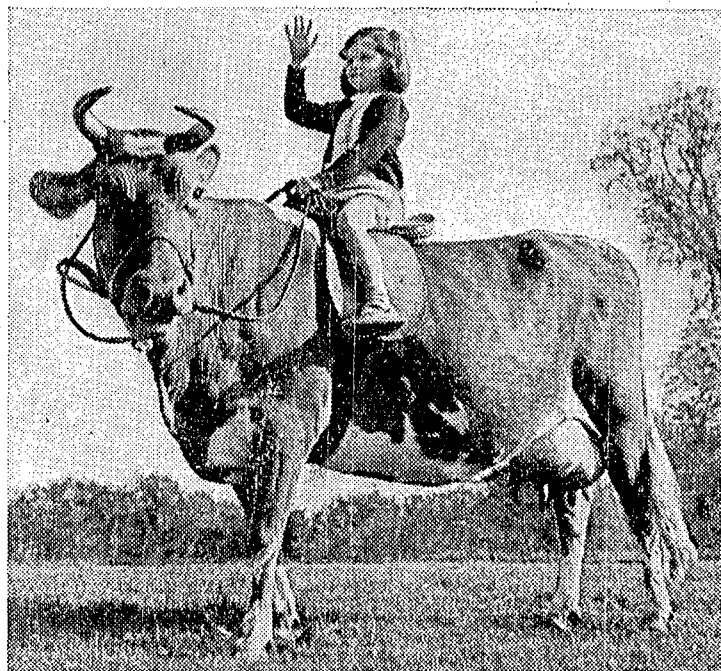
The millions of tons of air around these islands can store a tremendous amount of heat. When the temperature of the air rises one degree Fahrenheit, the accession of heat is enough to keep all the engines in industry running. So the drop in temperature was quite a big heat loss.

Air Keeps Its Heat

In reality, the air did not give up its heat. The warm air simply passed away to other regions, and was displaced by colder air from Norway.

This is the normal state of affairs in our weather, the exchange of air being kept up day after day throughout the year. On still, starry nights, there is some loss of heat owing to radiation, but in general we get our weather, hot or cold, from other regions, notably the Azores when it is mild or Norway or Iceland when it is cold.

FARMER'S PRIDE



Passers-by near Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, rub their eyes when they see this Guernsey champion cow being ridden by the four-year-old daughter of a local farmer.

The Bounty Bible Returns to Pitcairn

FEW Bibles can have shed their light in such strange circumstances as the one now to be returned to the Pitcairn Islanders. It is the Bible of HMS Bounty, whose sailors mutinied against their cruel commander, William Bligh, in 1789, and it went with them to uninhabited Pitcairn Island in the Pacific.

The Bible was obtained in 1839 by an American whaling sailor from a grandson of John Adams, the good old man who had used it as his only guide in establishing a law-abiding community on this tiny, faraway island; and it came eventually into the possession of the Connecticut Historical Society, who are returning it to the people of Pitcairn.

Quarrelsome Mutineers

John Adams had taken a leading part in the mutiny. After setting Bligh and some of his supporters adrift in the ship's launch, some of the mutineers went to lonely Pitcairn Island, where they burned the ship.

There were quarrels and treacherous murders among the settlers. One after another the grown men were slain. Only one man held himself aloof from this evil way of life—John Adams, who had as his only inspiration the Bible which he had taken from the Bounty before she was destroyed. He read and prayed. He pleaded with his fellow-islanders in vain.

At last John Adams was the only grown man left on the island with about eight or nine women and a number of little children who had been born there. He set himself to bring up the children in the light of his precious Book.

When, in 1814, twenty-five years after the mutiny, two British fri-

gates happened to touch at Pitcairn, their crews found John Adams a venerable old man. Sir Thomas Staines, who was on board, wrote of him: "His exemplary conduct and fatherly care of the whole of the little colony could not but command admiration. The pious manner in which all those born on the island have been reared . . . has given him a pre-eminence over the whole of them."

What a treasure his Bible will be for the present generation of Pitcairn Islanders! It has been described in the New York Herald Tribune as being bound in heavy calf and "polished to the colour of mahogany by successive hands in this hot, moist climate . . . Where the Bible was thumbed for burial, baptism, and marriage services the pages are badly worn."

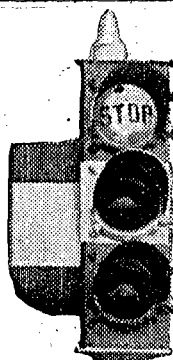
Its return is a response to an appeal made by Mr A. W. Moverley, the Education Officer who arrived in Pitcairn last July, for the return of relics of Pitcairn's history which have been obtained from the generous islanders by souvenir-hunters.

Mutton Bird Island

DR D. L. SERVenty, an Australian Government fisheries officer, is spending the southern summer studying the habits of the Australian mutton bird on lonely Fisher Island, in Bass Strait—the 200-mile strip of water separating Tasmania from the Australian mainland. His investigations are closely associated with the fears held by the Australian Government that the present killing rate of the birds for canning might jeopardise the future of the industry.

STOP, LOOK . . . and LISTEN !

Traffic signals that talk have been demonstrated in the London area. The sound equipment is fitted to the standard, and as the lights change a magnetised plastic strip record is switched on and a voice from the loud-speaker advises pedestrians, "Before crossing, look right, look left, look right again. Thank you."



Future of Western Germany

THE British, French, and Americans, if not the Germans, have been making rapid progress toward completing the organisation of Western Germany as a normal State, and deciding the main lines of its relations with the outside world.

In a recent CN we explained the importance of the new Ruhr Authority for the future of Germany. But even the securing of the proper supervision of such a vital industrial and military area as the Ruhr is only a part of a much greater task.

Work on that greater task is being done in several places. At Bonn, in the lovely Rhine country, representatives of all German parties and Länder (the provinces into which the three Western occupation zones are divided) are trying to draft a Constitution for the part of Germany which is not dominated by Russia. Their task is by no means easy.

The Choice

The main question to be answered before any other matter can be decided is: What sort of State is this new Germany going to be? Is she going to become a loose Federation of States, as she was before the Franco-Prussian War; or a strong Federal State like the USA; or a State with one central Government, like France? The answer to a host of questions on local government taxation, law courts, police, and so on, depends on that one choice.

There is yet another difficulty. The German leaders at Bonn have to clear the ground of the constitutional debris, as it were, left by the Nazis, and must also prepare in advance to replace the somewhat complicated systems set up in their respective zones by the Allied Military Governments.

That is the German side of the picture. There is also the point of view of the Allies.

Germany has done great wrongs to Europe, and the Allies cannot permit Germany to rise again as a potential military threat to peace. So what the Allies wish may be summed up in this simple but important demand: Germany must be demilitarised and must stay demilitarised. Two new schemes are being worked out to ensure this—the creation of a Military Security Board and the setting up of an Occupation Status.

Difficult Task

The Military Security Board is a new organisation composed of representatives of Britain, America, and France, and later, perhaps, of the Benelux countries. Its general task is to prevent the revival of militarism, or the warlike spirit, and the creation of the means for making war in Western Germany. No time-limit has been set for the duration of the Board, and it is expected to remain in being after the end of military occupation.

The Allies have borne in mind the lesson of their unsuccessful attempts to demilitarise and disarm Germany after the First World War. This time a system of extensive inspections of factories, research institutes, import warehouses, and military buildings will be maintained to ensure that whatever the Germans do is directed to peaceful purposes. The prevention of a "militaristic spirit" is more difficult. To control the mind of a nation is one of the most diffi-

cult propositions in the world.

The purpose of the Occupation Statute is to provide for the existence side by side of a West German Government and an Allied Occupation Force. But sooner or later the Occupation Statute will cease to be effective and the Allies will withdraw from Germany.

The Military Security Board, on the other hand, will continue to function indefinitely. Its job will obviously be more difficult when the Allies have no troops in Germany. So, however ingenious the system of control may be, the Allies have still to count on a measure of German co-operation. This is the key of the German situation. To obtain that co-operation, the Allies must be as frank with the Germans as they are between themselves.

The recent moves about Western Germany will probably help to clarify the situation more than any step taken hitherto.

A Word in Season

THE CN's National Handwriting Test announced in this issue is likely to create an extra demand for the paper.

WILL you therefore please help your newsagent to gauge his requirements by giving him an order to reserve a copy for you weekly. You will be doing yourself a service at the same time, because although there are plenty of CNs available newsagents' can not cater with certainty for chance customers.

SOME of your friends will be glad to know about our great Handwriting Test, so why not show them the announcement which appears on page 9.

Fun and Games with the Scientists

Continued from page 1

square phosphorescent plate level with the child's head and then switching on a powerful ultraviolet lamp for a split-second. The square immediately glowed where the light could strike it and left a perfect black silhouette where the head had shaded it from the light.

In another grotto two so-called Gremlins were pulling long electric sparks out of each other's tummies, an effect achieved by the use of special high-frequency equipment. If alternating current alternated between zero and its maximum sufficiently fast, say a million times per second instead of fifty times per second as it does for normal household use, the current will run along the top of a body without penetrating it. Thus, wonderful effects can be produced without harm.

Of the working models at the party, by far the most exciting was built by one of the electronic groups. They produced a model bomber attached to a wire, which flew over a large table made to represent the sea with a battleship sailing on it. In the centre of the table was a target, and the plane carried a bomb with a

AMERICA STANDS FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

WHAT may well be one of the great speeches of history was made by Mr. Truman when he was inaugurated at Washington as President of the United States. His words have sounded round the world, putting fresh courage into the hearts of men and women everywhere.

His speech was entirely devoted to America's resolve to lead the world's free peoples, for, the President said:

"The people of the earth face the future with grave uncertainty, composed almost equally of great hopes and great fears. In this time of doubt they look to the United States as never before for good will, strength, and wise leadership. It is fitting, therefore, that we take this occasion to proclaim to the world the essential principles of the faith by which we live, and to declare our aims to all peoples."

President Truman declared that in the coming years America's programme for peace and freedom will consist of four major courses of action. First, to give unfaltering support to the United Nations. Second, to continue the programmes for world economic recovery from the war. Third, to strengthen freedom-loving nations against the dangers of aggression. Fourth, to help people living in underdeveloped parts of the world by giving them the benefits of American scientific and industrial knowledge.

"We are aided," he said, "by all who desire freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom to live their own lives for useful ends. Our allies are the millions who hunger and thirst after righteousness."

WORLD FOOTBALL

THE entries for the World Football Tournament at Rio de Janeiro in 1950 have now closed, and as many as 30 nations have entered. These include, as the CN has already noted, an entry from England for the first time.

percussion cap which could be released by a remote control switch at the side of the table. If you pressed the switch too early or too late, the bomb came screaming down and exploded with a sharp crack, but if you hit the target an electric contact heated some magnesium powder and there was a brilliant flash.

In another room was a pseudo-ventriloquist with a large, fluffy toy dog and a small, woolly toy monkey, which were carrying on long conversations with the children. We thought he was a real ventriloquist until the monkey interrupted him while he was talking, and they both shouted at each other at the same time. I was told afterwards that the animals had small loud-speakers inside them, attached by a wire to a hidden microphone with another man talking into it.

In all there were more than 30 side shows at this marvellous party, including such delights as "Electrical Animal Snap" and remote-controlled motor-cars. It might be well worth while to suggest to any relatives employed in scientific or technical industries that a similar party for your benefit might be a good idea.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

UNQUENCHABLE

A sailor and his mother were in the sea for half an hour when their small yacht capsized off the Isle of Wight. After they were rescued by a launch the sailor's mother remarked: "It was a very nice day for a swim and we thoroughly enjoyed it."

Because of a shortage of timber, telegraph poles of steel are being used in some parts of Britain.

A new Constitution has been granted to Trinidad, giving the people greater control over their affairs.

Russian archaeologists have unearthed and presented to the State Historical Museum, Moscow, 254 silver and brass coins, dating between 1251 and 1376.

Slowly Does It

An atomic power-producing reactor which is likely to be in experimental use next year is expected to reduce the speed of fission neutrons from 50 million m.p.h. to about 5000 m.p.h.



Field End School, Eastcote, Middlesex, has its own pets' corner, and here we see some of the children with their rabbit.

Manchester's last tram, carrying the Lord Mayor and officials, has been driven through the city with ceremony. The trams are not to be scrapped, markets for them having been found in Aberdeen and elsewhere.

Canada is to hold its first Boy Scout Jamboree at Connaught Camp on the Ottawa River near Ottawa from July 16 to July 24.

DAUNTLESS

At Durban an almost completely paralysed South African girl has written a book of short stories with a pencil held between her teeth.

As a tribute to the gallant service of the Dutch Merchant Navy during the war, two new Merchant Navy class engines on the Southern Region have been named the Holland-America Line, and the Holland-Afrika Line. The two engines are fitted with electric light.

"Only the Rash Dash" is the slogan adopted by Dartford Road Safety Committee.

A thousand Rover Scouts from the British Isles hope to attend the Fourth World Rover Moot to be held August 2-11 at Bismoen, Skjåk, in the Norwegian mountains.

Mouse Alarm

A family asleep in a burning house in North London were awakened by frightened mice scampering about the floor of the room above.

A lighthouse at Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire, has been let as a house for 7s 6d a week.

London's Underground Railways have ordered 90 cars made of aluminium alloy, the first lightweight rolling stock to be used in this country; each will be three tons lighter than a steel car.

BACK HOME

The Hohenzollern collection of silver, which was handed over by a German civilian to an American infantry regiment before the capture of Berlin, and taken to America, is to be sent back to Germany.

Infant eels (elvers) numbering several millions have been brought from the Severn and released in the Thames. It will be five years before they are full-grown.

Great Britain has recognised the new Republic of Korea, which has been established south of the 38th parallel by elections held in that part of the peninsula.

As the Crow Flies

Students of two schools in Sydney, Nova Scotia, have complained of a crow swooping through the windows during class-time, and flying off with pencils.

Harry, a 29-year-old parrot living at Maidstone, recently laid an egg; now they call it Harriet.

The first large modern Government school for African children in Southern Rhodesia has been opened this term at Bulawayo. It can accommodate 500 girls and boys.

HAPPY EVENT

A recent notice in the lion house at Bristol Zoo read: "Quiet. Cubs expected." Later, three cubs were born.

Diphtheria deaths in Britain's largest towns last year were the lowest on record—100 in 126 towns.

A million copies have been printed of a primer telling the Japanese people what the occupying authorities mean when they refer to Democracy. It was written by 12 Japanese scholars and a printing of 4½ million copies is contemplated.

Four-Footer Fish

John Ford, a 13-year-old Kings-ton schoolboy on holiday near Bournemouth, landed a 27-pound pike, 47 inches long.

The 3rd Banstead (Surrey) Boy Scouts planted 5000 cabbages for a farmer at Swanley, Kent, as a good deed.

General Chiang Kai-Shek, the President of China, has retired. He had been the leader of the Chinese people for about 20 years. His duties have been taken over by the Vice-President, General Li Tsung-jen. It is believed that Chiang Kai-shek retired in order to help peace negotiations.

The name, Prince Charles Strait, has been given, with the King's approval, to a channel between Elephant and Corn Wallis Islands in the South Shetlands.

The 18,000-ton Royal Mail steam-turbine liner, Magdalena, is due to leave London on her maiden voyage to South America on February 26. She was built by Harland and Wolff at Belfast to replace the motorship Highland Patriot, lost in the war.

[Really] Dick Barton

When a five-year-old boy was lost at Wimbledon he told the policeman at the station, with a smile, that his name was Dick Barton. They laughed and asked his real name. He insisted it was Dick Barton, and inquiries revealed that he really was Dick Barton.

In Nyasa, North-West Mozambique, big new coal deposits have been found; it is thought they will be able to provide coal for the entire Portuguese empire.

White-Winged Escorts

SEAGULLS, those wild creatures of the wind and the waves, have always had a reputation for considerable intelligence. For instance, if they find mussel shells tightly shut, they carry them high up into the air in their bills, and then drop them in the hope that the shells will break on the rocks and release the tasty morsels within.

But recently seagulls have been claimed to be even cleverer than that. Aircraft engineers at Rose Bay, Sydney, Australia, have declared that the seagulls that live round the flying-boat base there know when a flying-boat is approaching Sydney long before it appears over the bay, and that

they can distinguish between Tasman and other machines.

When their acute intelligence, or intuition—whatever it may be—detects a Tasman flying-boat coming from New Zealand, out they fly and escort the craft to its mooring. Any other planes they ignore.

The reason, it appears, is that the crews of the Tasmans are in the habit of throwing scraps of food to the sea scavengers after each flight is completed. Not so in the case of the other flying-boats that reach Rose Bay.

Truly, we have a lot still to learn about the intelligence of wild birds.

STUDY ABROAD

UNDER the title Study Abroad, Unesco has just published in French and English a list of opportunities for students to study abroad. It contains as many as 10,500 fellowships available in 27 countries. It is hoped that more candidates will apply for international scholarships and that international student exchange will be increased.

The list mentions educational opportunities in Australia, Belgium, Burma, China, Czechoslovakia, France, South Africa, Britain, and the United States, among many other countries.

Young Nature Student

GUY BLAKER, aged 12, of Wargrave, Berks, is a reader of The Times, and recently he saw his own name and contribution in that famous newspaper.

For Guy is also a keen student of birds and, not long ago, while walking in the riverside meadows near his home, he came across the body of a kittiwake, a seabird hardly ever seen inland. The poor bird was covered with oil which, he supposed, had caused its death.

"I was surprised to see a kittiwake in these parts," he wrote, "but I feel sure it was one, from the colour of its legs, which were blackish, the yellowish bill which was orange inside, and the absence of 'mirrors' on the wing-primaries."

He had correctly identified the kittiwake which, rendered helpless by the oil, had probably been blown inland by a gale.



Winter in Switzerland

Two youthful skiers tackle the nursery slopes at Wengen, one of the famous resorts in the Bernese Oberland.

GHOST AT THE TOWER

THE other night, while on sentry duty by the Jewel House, at the Tower of London, where the ghost of Anne Boleyn is said to walk, a soldier thought he heard footsteps approaching. He peered out but, although it was a moonlit night, he could not see anyone. The footsteps grew louder, then faded away. He rubbed his eyes, then shrugged his shoulders.

Some time later he again heard footsteps, this time as if someone were running. They seemed to come nearer, and then disappear by the White Tower.

The third time the sentry heard the footsteps he called out the guard. They thoroughly searched the area but could find no trace of any intruders. Then they heard the footsteps. Every soldier focused his eyes towards the noise, but they could see nothing.

At that moment the sergeant happened to glance at the top of the White Tower and 'saw the "ghost"—the rope of the flag standard lapping gently against the wood.

Oldest Wooden Walls

GREENSTED, a tiny village near Ongar, in Essex, has one of the most interesting little churches in England; its nave is built of split oak trees set in position by Saxon carpenters before the Norman invasion—the oldest wooden walls in England.

It also has a 16th-century timber tower, and unless it is repaired very quickly the church may have to be closed to visitors next summer. The repairs will cost a considerable amount of money, but the people of this tiny Essex parish are confident that it will be forthcoming.

Church World Meeting

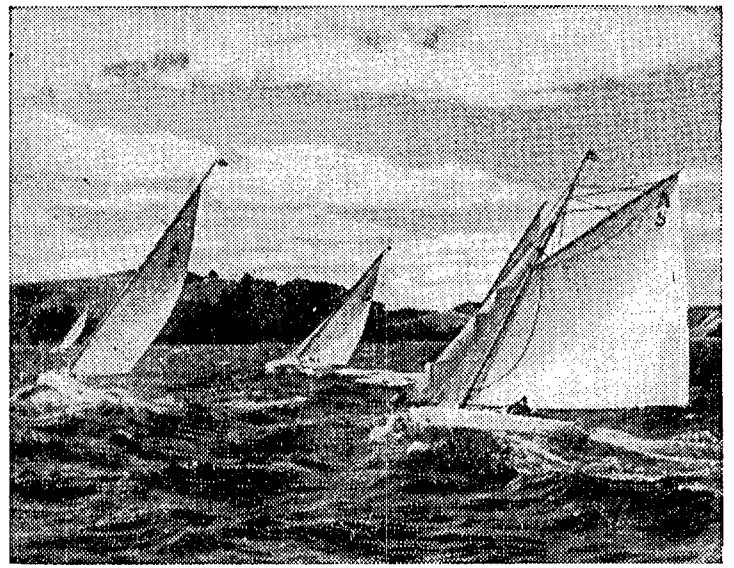
THE first Congregational Church World Assembly since 1930 is to be held in June at Wellesley College, Boston, Massachusetts. It will be attended by 250 delegates from all over the world, and among the speakers on the theme, Freedom and Fellowship in Christ, will be Sir Oliver Franks, British Ambassador to the United States. A pageant of youth is being arranged by the Boston churches.

Delegates from Great Britain have been invited as guests in view of currency problems.

TWO-CAB LOCOS

THE Southern Region of British Railways now have under construction five steam locomotives of novel design, to handle very heavy goods and passenger traffic. This will be good news to many who have a "soft spot" for the steam engine and regret the increase in electrification and the introduction of Diesel locomotives.

The new engines will have twelve driving-wheels in two sets of six, with three cylinders in each set. The boiler will be all-welded, and there will be a driving-cab at either end, so that turning round will be unnecessary. Increased efficiency is anticipated from the use of sleeve valves, as fitted in some aero and motor engines. Their boilers, too, will need cleaning far less often owing to chemical treatment of the boiler feed water to prevent the formation of scale and sludge.



Summer in New Zealand

A stiff breeze and a choppy sea provide exciting conditions for a yacht race off Kawau Island, New Zealand.

MAYFLOWER RECORD

THE Mayflower recently crossed the Atlantic in 10 hours 2 minutes.

But this Mayflower was a clipper of the clouds; she was the Pan-American Clipper Mayflower which, flying non-stop the 3500 miles from New York to London, reduced the record for the flight by ten minutes.

The Pilgrim Fathers in the first Mayflower had many anxious moments, but at least they were spared "taking off."

FRESH FOOD SHIP

THE 14,000-ton food ship Himukara, launched recently on the Clyde, is specially designed to defeat bacteria likely to contaminate meat cargoes. She is really two ships in one, as an inner hull is fitted and the cavity packed with granulated cork to ensure a food-preserving temperature in all climates.

As the bulkheads are clothed in pitch the cold and moisture from the steel walls will not affect cargoes, and draughts will be kept out of meat safes by flannel around all entrances. Plastic, fibre glass, and magnesium insulating materials will prevent heat from furnaces and pipes from raising the temperature. Cooled brine, flowing through miles of pipes, will absorb and carry away heat from the atmosphere. In air-cooled holds the atmosphere will be kept clear by means of an electric eye which will blink to operate a switch for creating a supply of pure air when the atmosphere is dense.

All these precautions are aimed at delivering food here as fresh as when shipped from New Zealand and Australia.

A Farm in Sark

THE Lady of Sark, the "gem" of the Channel Islands, is to benefit from the sale of a farm on her tiny domain.

Under the charter granted to the first holder of the Manor of the island by Queen Elizabeth in 1572, the buyer of any of the forty properties into which the land was divided has to pay one-thirteenth of the purchase price to the Seigneur.

The farm and about 25 acres of land was sold to a "foreigner," and with it goes the right to sit in the Court of Chief Pleas and to hold a pew in the Church of St Peter, where the Sunday evening services are held in French.

A Strike Which Would Be Welcome

ONE day, Queensland, Australia, may be one of the great oil-bearing areas of the world. At any rate, the Shell Company has thought it worth while spending £1,000,000 to find out.

That oil exists in Queensland there is no doubt. The point is whether the deep oil-boring experts can strike it in sufficient quantities in the right place. The most likely sites have been selected for prospecting operations.

The Federal Government and Commonwealth scientists are interested in this project which may add enormously to the natural wealth of Queensland, already one of the greatest sheep, cattle, and wheat producing areas in a world of shortages.

NEW NORTHANTS SKIPPER

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE county cricketers will be led this summer by a new captain, F. R. Brown, one of the game's best-known amateurs.

A former Cambridge Blue, F. R. Brown represented his Varsity on the hockey field and played rugby for the Old Leysians before he became a member of the Surrey County Cricket Club. He has appeared in several Test matches for England, and his slow bowling and forceful, carefree batting have won the admiration of cricket crowds everywhere.

During the war he was taken prisoner and one of his fellow-captives was Bill Bowes, the Yorkshire and England fast bowler. Like Bowes, Freddy Brown suffered much from his life in prison camps and not until last summer did he resume his place in the Surrey eleven. Now he has been chosen to take over the leadership of Northants, and he should prove a popular skipper.

TAIL-PIECE

WALKING on the sands at Porangahau Beach, New Zealand, Mr E. Rauzi saw an eight-foot blue-nosed shark gliding through the sea towards unsuspecting bathers.

He dashed into the sea, seized the shark's tail and hung on. Another man came to his aid, and between them they somehow managed to drag the shark to the beach.

More Films Worth Seeing

WILLIAM COMES TO TOWN, described as written and directed by Val Guest from a story based on Richmal Crompton's famous characters, is a first-class farcical film. All the family can and will laugh at it. It is a very great advance on *Just William's Luck*, which appeared about a year ago, also with William Graham in the title role and with Garry Marsh and Jane Welsh as Mr and Mrs Brown, his (not always) long-suffering parents.

William's latest craze is the circus. He gets into serious

better than some of our MPs. William says nothing, but later persuades his friends to accompany him to 10, Downing Street, to see the Prime Minister. The boys manage to see the kindly Minister for Economic Affairs (A. E. Matthews), and William tells him that his father knows exactly how to save the country if he was Prime Minister. This conversation is overheard by a reporter, and next day the papers come out with huge headlines about Mr Brown of Hadley and his plan.

The Browns' house is surrounded

cap, Marky lets pandemonium loose in the Browns' home. He nips round the house, taking refuge in clothes baskets, on chandeliers, and shinning down drainpipes when the pursuit gets really hot.

William is so depressed by his punishment—that he is not to go to the circus—that he goes once more with his friends to London, and, needless to say, gets into the circus, and everything ends happily after a series of adventures always amusing and sometimes really thrilling.

The director, Val Guest, sets a cracking pace all through, with the result that *William Comes To Town* is a complete success. The dialogue is always natural. Fun and incident never flag; but it is Marky, the chimp, who steals the show.

THE LUCK OF THE IRISH does not sound a very promising title for a Hollywood film. Tyrone Power, Anne Baxter, Cecil Kellaway, and J. M. Kerrigan are featured in it, and credit must go to the director, Henry Kostler, and the producer, Fred Kohlmar, for a picture that is full of charm and unexpected fun.

The dictionary says that a leprechaun is an Irish pygmy sprite, and most of the laughter in *The Luck of the Irish* comes from a quaint little man (Cecil Kellaway) who turns out to be a leprechaun. Tyrone Power, who plays an American newspaper correspondent, first meets him in a remote part of Ireland and does him a good turn. Then Horace (the leprechaun) turns up in New York and becomes Power's servant and takes a large part in his affairs, with the result that Power gives up big and rather dishonest business and goes back to live happily ever afterwards in Ireland.

This probably sounds a silly and simple story, but it is an entirely successful excursion into fantasy, lively and full of laughter. Hollywood has not given us a better comedy film for some time.

Dean Swift and His Bungalow

THE GREAT DEAN SWIFT, who died in 1745, would have been proud of his namesake, a 62-year-old labourer at Hucknall, Nottingham. This modern Dean Swift has built, entirely single-handed, a fine brick-built bungalow to house his family of six; yet he



is not allowed (officially) to lay a single brick because, being an unapprenticed bricklayer's labourer, he must abide by a trade union regulation to that effect. At work, he has faithfully observed the rule never to use a trowel; but in his spare time he has built a bungalow on which he is here seen working. Local officials say it is a fine job of work.

NEW LIGHT ON THE FLAMINGO

IN A NEW BOOK, *The Flamingos* of the Camargue, the distinguished student of birds, M. Etienne Gallet, has much fresh and interesting information concerning a bird about whose habits not a great deal is known.

The flamingo, with its long legs, swan-like neck, webbed feet, and extraordinary scoop-shaped beak, is not found in Britain but prefers warmer climes such as the southern parts of Europe. In the air it is extraordinarily beautiful, for then it shows to full advantage its rosy red wings tipped with black, and it is equally at home in the water. A curious feature of this quaint bird is that, owing to the formation of its beak, it prefers to eat its food with its head in an upside-down position.

Probably no one today knows more about the flamingo than M. Gallet, who for fifteen years has studied the birds in one of their favourite haunts, the dreary mud flats and sand dunes of the Rhone delta in the south of France. After long observation at close quarters he has come to the conclusion that the flamingo feeds mostly on the soft mud,

which has a high food value for the bird in its organic content here. When it is feeding it stands in one spot and scoops out a circular ditch round itself, filtering the mud through its beak and piling up the sand in the centre.

On this mound it sometimes lays its egg, which is jealously guarded by the parents who take it in turns to sit, trumpeting constantly during the night hours to keep away intruders. A few hours after they are hatched the young birds, which are at that stage covered with a soft grey down, leave their nests, and start to swim at once.

At the beginning the chick receives food from its mother's beak in the form of liquid. For this purpose its beak is straight, and only later does it grow into a curve for scooping up the mud and sand.

M. Gallet has discovered also that when a colony of flamingos was disturbed and returned to their nests to find their young ones all mixed up together, one chick was put back in each nest, little attention being paid as to whether it was replaced in the right one.

C N ASTRONOMER TELLS US...

Why the Planets Do Not Fall Into the Sun

THE GREAT WORLD OF JUPITER is now replacing Venus as the chief luminary of the early morning sky, and through the coming spring months will be what is popularly known as the Morning Star.

Venus has now almost ceased to be visible through appearing so close to the Sun, though actually she is speeding to far away beyond and behind the Sun. Venus may possibly be glimpsed for a short while before sunrise, but must not be mistaken for Jupiter, which is now some way to the right and at a higher altitude.

Jupiter now rises at about 6 o'clock, so he should be visible in the south-east by 6.30, if the sky is clear. Venus does not rise until about 7 o'clock, and as the Sun rises at about 7.30 there is but a short time for getting a last peep at Venus. We shall see no more of Venus through the spring and summer.

Jupiter is very far away at present, being about 525 million miles distant, but is coming nearer at the average rate of about 5 million miles a week; even so, he will not be at his nearest to us until July 20, when he will be only 388 million miles distant. Long before this we shall have Jupiter in the late evening sky, but still at a rather low altitude.

A Vast World

There is something exceedingly wonderful in the thought of this great world, 1312 times the size of our own world, pursuing its pre-ordained path so unerringly and to time. For millions of years this immense sphere, weighing as much as 318 Earths, has been suspended in space with the Sun's gravitational pull all the time trying to pull it down and into the Sun.

The only thing that saves Jupiter from this fate is a mysterious form of Energy, known for want of a better name as *Centrifugal Force*; no one knows how it originated.

The force presents an impetus compelling Jupiter to travel through space in a straight line. The measured amount of this impetus is known as its *momentum*, but this explains nothing; it merely states the observed fact that the average speed of Jupiter when at a certain distance from the Sun is about eight miles a second, just as the Earth's average speed is about 18½ miles a second. If the speed were not as great in both cases, Jupiter and the Earth would fall into the Sun.

Conflicting Forces

This centrifugal force is impelling Jupiter to speed away in a straight line, at right angles to the gravitational pull of the Sun, but this pull makes the great planet fall continually towards the Sun, a certain amount in a certain time. Affected by both the force and the pull, however, the planet must go round the Sun instead of into the Sun.

It is the same with the Earth and all the planets, and, in fact, all the suns and revolving bodies of the Universe; they are all falling to a certain centre which they apparently never reach, and all because they each possess this impelling force. From whence has it come? In the case of the planets it can be traced to the Sun's rapid rotation many thousands of millions of years ago, when the fragments which are now planets were thrown off from the parent Sun. Beyond that it remains a mystery. G. F. M.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?

THE ARRIVAL AT GLASGOW ZOO of a new cockatoo which speaks very politely has caused some discussion. Already in the zoo is a cockatoo which speaks anything but politely, and the question being debated is will the polite cockatoo influence the impolite one for the better, or will it be vice versa?

MUSIC AT THE CASTLE

CARDIFF CASTLE, together with its lovely grounds, was presented last year to the city by Lord Bute, and now it is announced that it is to be opened this year as a National College of Music and Drama for Wales. The report states that students will be able to study any branch of music, drama, or ballet.

When the college opens next September it will start with only 50 part-time students, but within a year it is expected there will be 500 part-time and 50 full-time

students, with an eventual capacity of 1000 altogether.

The scheme will be worked by the Cardiff Education Committee, probably in association with the new Joint Education Authority for Wales. Dr Hind, formerly Professor of Military and Brass Band Music at the Guildhall School of Music, and Director of Music at Battersea Grammar School, will direct the first term. Eight elaborately decorated "show rooms" in the castle are to be kept open for the public.

Scots Father of Russia's Navy

WHEN THE RUSSIAN SAILORS bring home to Rosyth the loaned British warships, they will come to the place of old associations with their own navy, writes a Scottish correspondent, for at Inverkeithing, only a mile away, was born in 1735 Samuel Greig, who was later to be called Father of the Russian Navy.

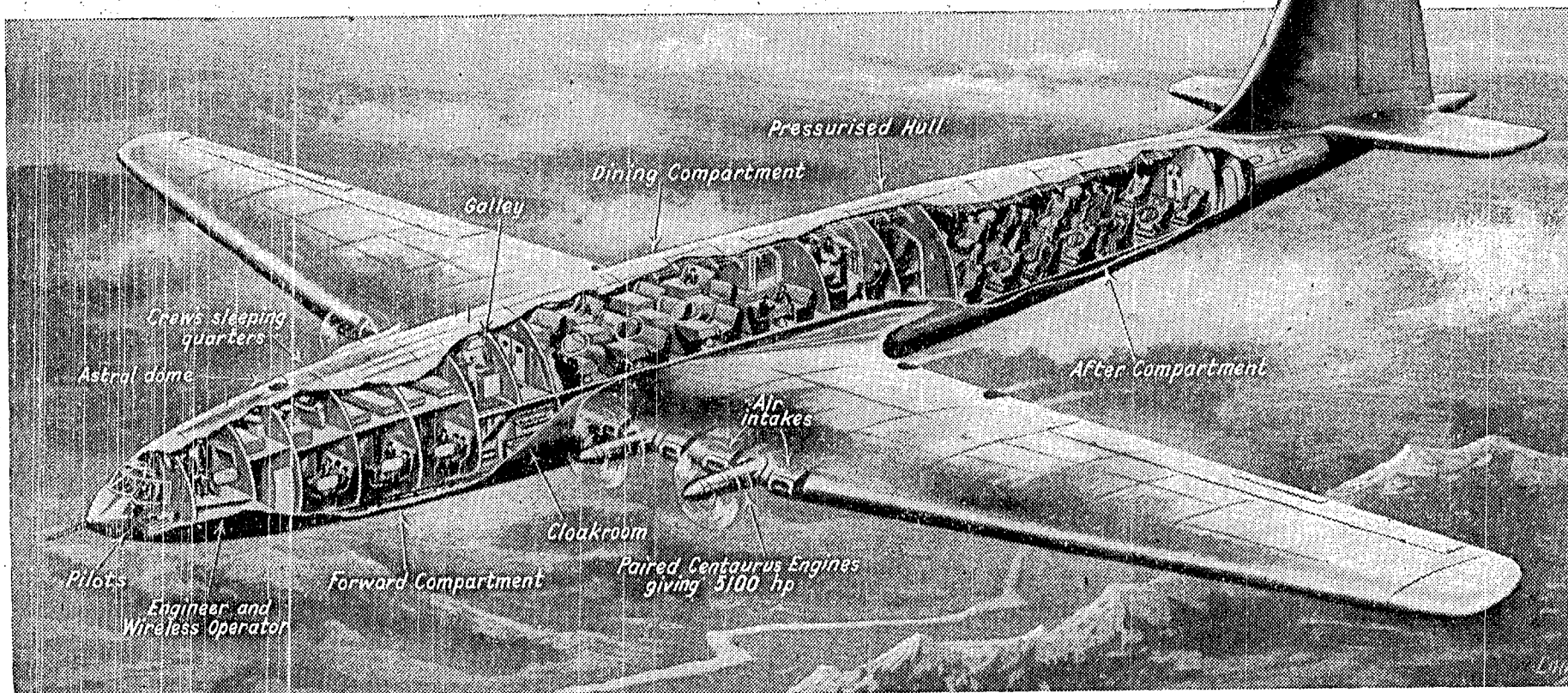
Greig joined the Royal Navy as a youth and later went with a party of officers to help to organise the Russian navy. So capable an officer did he prove himself that he was appointed Commodore of the Russian Fleet in the Mediterranean.

When war broke out in 1769 between Russia and Turkey, Greig defeated the Turkish fleet by means of fire-ships, leading the first fire-ship into battle with a fine carelessness for his own safety. For this victory and distinguished service later Greig became known as the Father of the Russian Navy.

The Empress Catherine II gave him the supreme command and also many orders in the Russian nobility, coming herself to his flagship to pin on his breast the much-coveted Star of St Alexander Nevski.

Britain's Winged Leviathan

The Brabazon, biggest aeroplane ever built in Britain, is almost complete at Filton, near Bristol, and will soon be ready for launching on her maiden flight.



THE determination of Britain to take the lead in civil aviation is shown by the fact that something like £12,000,000 will be spent on getting the Brabazon air liner into service, about half this sum being for the provision of hangars, runways, servicing arrangements, and so on.

The machine at present under construction is a prototype, and will probably not go into regular passenger service. Considerable research will have to be undertaken with an aircraft of such gigantic size, and the first plane is expected to be used solely for flight development.

THE Brabazon type is a fully pressurised, high-altitude long-range monoplane, specially designed for the BOAC trans-oceanic service to fly non-stop between London Airport and Idlewild, New York, and will be the

only type of aircraft capable of doing this as a regular and paying service.

THE plane has a wing span of 230 feet—twice that of our largest bomber—and the fuselage is 177 feet long, with a maximum diameter of 16 feet 9 inches. The rudder is almost as high as a four-storey house, for it towers up to 50 feet, and the span of the tail-plane is 75 feet—considerably longer than a cricket pitch.

The wings will contain flexible fuel tanks carrying 13,500 gallons. The total weight of the aircraft will be 130 tons.

Powered by eight coupled Centaurus XX 18-cylinder air-cooled, sleeve-valve engines, with a total of 20,400 bhp, the Brabazon will have a maximum level speed of 300 mph at 25,000 feet, a climbing rate of 750 feet a minute, and a still-air range of 5500 miles necessary for the London - New York route to allow for adverse headwinds over the Atlantic. All the engines are enclosed in the inner wing, so it will be possible to service them while the plane is in flight.

Each pair of engines drives a pair of co-axial airscrews working through a reduction gearbox.

The second machine, to be built later, will have eight gas-turbine engines.

The Brabazon will carry a hundred passengers with a flight crew of seven and five stewards, and

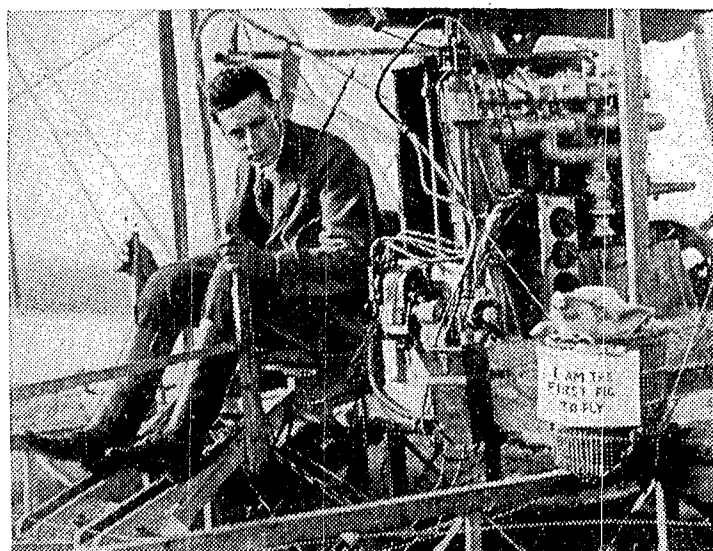
the standard of comfort and other amenities will be on a scale hitherto unknown in air transport. Provision has been made for sleeping accommodation, a dining saloon, lounge, cook's galley or kitchen, and servery, as well as dressing and toilet rooms.

There will be radio entertainment and also a cinema projector for the enjoyment of passengers. Of special interest will be the flight progress chart which will enable all to see their exact geographical position at any time during the flight.

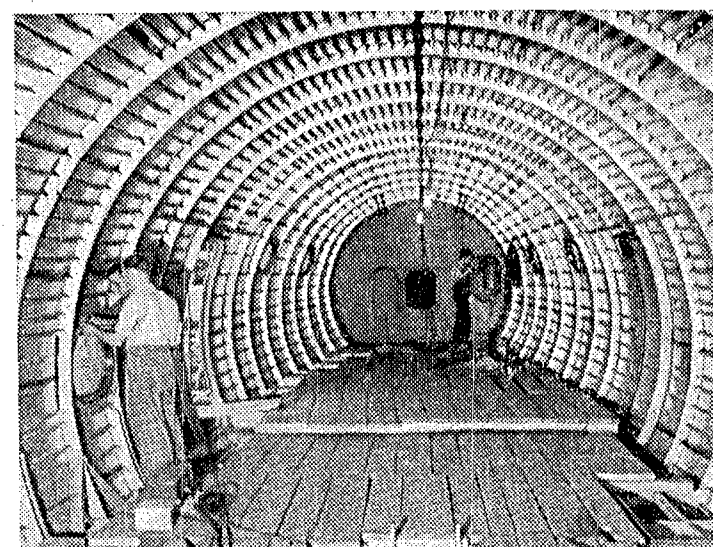
THE runway at Filton is 2750 yards long, but this is only really necessary for flight-testing purposes. The second Brabazon is expected to need a runway of little more than 2000 yards. With a four-wheel undercarriage on each side to distribute her weight over a large area, Brabazon II may be able to use existing first-class airports without the necessity of strengthening the surfaces of the runways.

The first of these planes is now almost ready, and Mr A. J. Pegg, chief test pilot of the Bristol Aeroplane Company, hopes soon to put this giant of the skies through its paces. The exact date of the first flight is not yet fixed, for with such a huge machine as the Brabazon a great many trials on the ground are necessary.

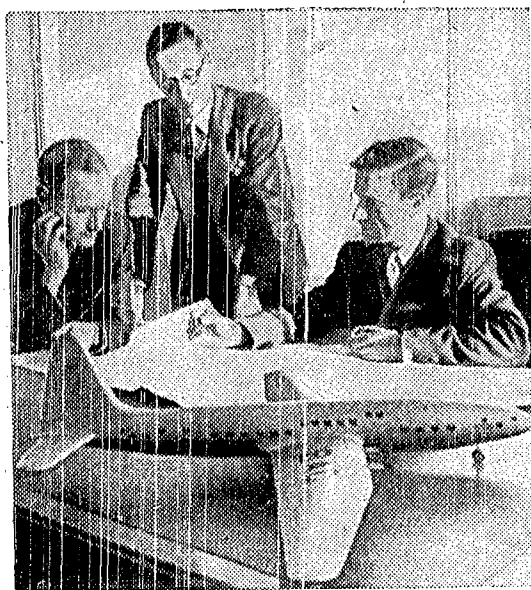
THE pictures on this page illustrate in a striking manner the vast strides made in aviation in a comparatively short time. Only 38 years ago men were flying small distances in frail machines with no protection against wind and weather. The Brabazon, named after a distinguished man of our time who was one of Britain's pioneer flying-men, is designed to give luxurious travel conditions for a hundred or more passengers on Transatlantic journeys.



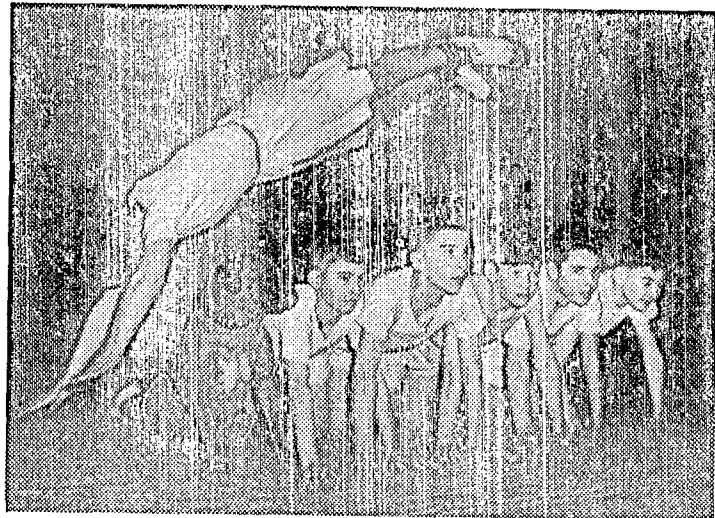
The Brabazon takes its name from Lord Brabazon, chairman of the committee on post-war civil aircraft. He holds Britain's No 1 certificate for pilots, and this picture taken in 1910 shows him in an aeroplane with "the first pig to fly."



Not an Underground Railway tunnel, but the interior of the Brabazon's fuselage while it was under construction.



The Back-Room Boys. Designers of the Brabazon hold a conference over blue-prints and a scale model.



Pet of the Gym

Samba, a Boxer dog, is the pet of a London gymnasium and is always ready to join in the activities of the class. In this picture he is lending an extra "back" for a boy to leap over.

Passing of the Hungry Forties

A HUNDRED years ago—on February 1, 1849—the import duties on corn ceased. The famous Act of 1846 then took effect, and the cause of much distress was removed.

It is interesting to recall that just before the "hungry forties" of last century England was a corn-exporting country; she had enough and to spare to send wheat across the Channel to France. But the population was growing, and soon, instead of exporting corn, England had to import it.

More Food Wanted

The great landowners had been enclosing more land from the commons in an effort to produce more wheat, and indeed by 1841 enough wheat was being produced in England and Wales to feed over sixteen million people. But still this was not enough. More and cheaper food was demanded for the growing numbers of working classes in the new great towns springing up in the industrial areas. England was ceasing to be primarily an agricultural country and was turning herself into the "workshop of the world."

If food was to come into the country to feed the population, one argument ran, it should be free of tax. The bread of the people should be as cheap as

GERMS CHANGE

It appears that some of our commoner germs are far from giving up the struggle against the new wonder drugs invented to combat them; they are changing their character and adapting themselves to new conditions.

This change has been most noticeable in the case of the T B germ. When streptomycin was discovered it was found to be an effective cure in some forms of T B because it created conditions in which the germ could not live. Medical research reveals that the germ has changed its character and can now live in the streptomycin atmosphere. The scarlet fever germ also appears to be changing, and doctors are keeping a sharp look-out for this new menace.

possible. But those who spoke for the farmers and landowners believed that farming would be destroyed if foreign corn was allowed to compete with home-grown corn; that the countryside would decay and the wealth of England gradually decline. In order to meet these arguments Parliament invented a graduated system of duty on imported corn which varied according to the prices of home-grown corn.

Against these duties arose a violent agitation which was led chiefly by a Lancashire manufacturer, Richard Cobden, who believed that England's greatness lay in a policy of Free Trade. In March 1839 the Anti-Corn Law League was formed, and a big campaign of agitation was started through the country. The "lecturers" of the League, as they were called, were often mobbed and refused a hearing in the country districts where the power of the local landowner was strong, but their speeches did a lot to educate the people of England in the elementary facts of economics.

A Long Campaign

Year after year Richard Cobden and his friend John Bright continued their campaign for the repeal of the Corn Laws in all parts of the country. It was the greatest campaign of public agitation since the anti-slavery campaign. The Corn Law League, financed by resources from the rich manufacturers of the north, was able to spend a thousand pounds a week. It distributed nine million carefully-argued tracts, and had its own newspaper. But although the agitation was financed by newly-rich men, the desire to repeal the Corn Laws was genuinely a popular one.

The poor conditions of life in the rural areas, the increasing population, and the need for a plentiful supply of cheap food for which England could pay by her exports were the facts which finally persuaded Parliament. In 1849 the existing duties were modified to a nominal shilling a quarter on imported corn. That was practically complete abolition, and twenty years later even that duty was abolished.

A great victory had been won—the people's food was freed.

ENGLISH TREE OF LEGEND

HOLY thorn trees blooming, it is claimed, at midnight on old Christmas Eve—which comes later than our Christmas Eve—have recently been arousing considerable interest. In Herefordshire, not long ago, crowds of people went by night to see these trees in various parts of the county.

The trees are said to be descended from slips taken from an original holy thorn tree at Glastonbury Abbey. The legend runs that Joseph of Arimathea, the man who buried Jesus, came to Britain to preach the Gospel, and on Wirral Hill, near Glastonbury, struck his staff into the ground, where it burst into blossom. Afterwards, the legend continues, he built a chapel of wattle and daub which grew through the centuries into the noble abbey that, dismantled by Henry VIII, stands in magnificent ruins today.

The fact of the matter is that these holy thorn trees belong to a variety of a species of hawthorn, called *Crataegus oxyacantha praecox*, which blossoms twice in a year, once in the winter and again in the spring—the winter blooms producing no fruit. The time of the winter blooming depends on the weather; if the winter is very cold, there may be no blossom, but in an exceptionally mild winter, the first blooming may occur as early as November.

Life-Saving Radio

RADIO control is used in the ambulance service of the West Riding County Council, and the report of the Health Committee shows how it saves lives as well as time and petrol.

When no vehicle was available at Brighouse for four workmen injured at a factory three and a half miles away, a radio call was made to an ambulance known to be near the factory. The driver received the radio message while passing the works, with the result that the ambulance called for the casualties within three minutes of the call. When the driver presented himself at the works office he was asked if the ambulance had "dropped from the sky."

The Health Committee have asked for permission to spend more money on radio equipment in view of its proved value in emergencies.

WORKERS' PARADE



Hedge-trimming is one of the numerous tasks on a farm that call for a countryman's knowledge and skill.

The Editor's Table

WHY DO YOU DO YOUR BEST?

FAMOUS philosopher Bertrand Russell has been asking his radio audience what it is that makes a man do his best work. What makes a man pull his weight, throw all he knows into the job in hand, or go all out on an adventure which is risky and dangerous?

There are, of course, various reasons. A man may do his best from a sense of duty, for self interest, or for the welfare of the community. Sometimes it is the competitive spirit, stirring him to get ahead of the other man; or it may be "vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself." All these reasons, Lord Russell thinks, can rouse a man to aim high, and draw out the finest he can give.

THE philosopher's analysis does not, however, include the highest motive of all—love. This motive is the driving force behind the noblest lives and the most glorious adventures; it has always inspired men and women to attempt the impossible; it has always enabled people to spend their lives, regardless of self, in the service of others.

This is the purest motive of all in the pattern of human life, easily out-distancing all other causes which compel a man to do his best. Love not only spurs a man to do his best, it provides him with the necessary power. For love, a man will gladly give all he has to give; endure hardship, live life alone, sacrifice fame and fortune.

"LOVE will still be Lord of all," wrote Sir Walter Scott, after he had examined all the other reasons why men are courageous and unselfish. He knew the true source of every particle of power which gives strength to the weak and courage to the feeble—the ultimate origin of the force which compels men to do their best, to "pull their weight," in every walk of life.

Wilt Thou Leave Me?

AND wilt thou leave me thus,
That hath loved thee so long.
In wealth and woe among?
And is thy heart so strong
As for to leave me thus?
Say nay! Say nay!

And wilt thou leave me thus,
That hath given thee my heart,
Never for to depart,
Neither for pain nor smart?
And wilt thou leave me thus?
Say nay! Say nay!

And wilt thou leave me thus,
And have no more pity
Of him that loveth thee?
Alas! thy cruelty!
And wilt thou leave me thus?
Say nay! Say nay!

Sir Thomas Wyatt

Peace in the Great White South

THE C N has often urged that there should be no international rivalry in exploring and developing the possible riches of the vast unknown continent of Antarctica. Last year there were unhappy signs of rivalry developing between Britain and Argentina and Chile.

It is encouraging news, therefore, that the three countries have taken a step to avoid such risks. Britain, Argentina, and Chile have agreed that there is no need for any of them, during this "summer" season in Antarctica, to send warships, other than those needed for routine purposes, south of latitude 60 degrees, south of which are most of the Falkland Islands Dependencies and all the Continent itself.

Let us hope this agreement may lead to an acceptance of the American proposal for creating a limited form of international regime in Antarctic territory—a proposal that has been accepted in principle by Great Britain and is viewed sympathetically by New Zealand.

Men's struggle in Antarctica is against hostile nature, not against each other.

FEBRUARY LORE

IN February if thou hearest thunder,
Thou wilt see a summer's wonder.

IF Candlemas be fair and clear,
There'll be two winters in the year.

IF now the cat lies in the sun,
she will creep behind the stove in March.

Sow beans in the mud
And they'll grow like a wood.

From Above

EVERY good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
St James

Under the E



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If a permanent wave ever breaks?

ARTISTS are asked to choose the colour of Farnham's new gas-holder. Everyone agrees it should be put in the shade.

READING women are to write a quiz on shops. Owing to the paper shortage.

A COUNCIL meeting was put off three times. The councillors were put out.

IT is impossible to keep open small schools on economic grounds. What about those on private grounds?

FREE BIBLES FOR GERMANY

THE British and Foreign Bible Society are to do a fine job by distributing 225,000 Bibles free to the children of Germany during the coming year.

This action will cost the Society £40,000, but it will be worth while, for it will enable children in Germany again to learn about God. Many of Germany's youth have never seen a Bible, and in these uneasy days the spirit of Christianity must be spread everywhere if the world is to have lasting peace.

Point of View

IN the plans for the 1951 Exhibition on the South Bank of the Thames it is proposed to add a new footbridge to Hungerford Railway Bridge.

This should provide a splendid vantage point from which to view the Exhibition. But unfortunately the Exhibition will be a viewpoint for one of the highest things in London—Hungerford Railway Bridge.

Books in the Country

THE travelling libraries that take books to people living in out-of-the-way parts of the country have proved such a success in the wide West Riding of Yorkshire, whose Education Committee have been pioneers in the Service, that the County Council plan to acquire several new cars to extend this book service to isolated hamlets.

Travelling libraries are capable of revolutionising the reading habits of people in rural areas, says the Education Committee's report. "Where the countryman has been brought into contact with a good stock of books and a trained librarian, he has proved himself a more voracious and discriminating reader even than the townsman, who has easier access to other amenities."

Townsmen will have to frequent their libraries more if they don't want their country cousins to call them "town bumpkins."

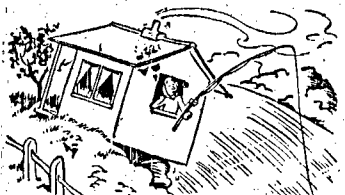
Editor's Table

AN old watermill near Norwich is to go. Because it doesn't.

A SUFFOLK cottage had seventeen layers of paper on its walls. Villagers of the past knew how to stick together.

WE may still run into really cold weather. We shall want to run when anyhow.

WASTE paper can be turned into egg boxes. If you haven't a waste-paper basket.



A HOUSE beside a waterfall is offered rent free. Somebody will take it over.

THINGS SAID

WHEN we strengthen ties which bind the Commonwealth together it does not mean that we are "ganging-up" against the rest of the world.

P. C. Gordon Walker, M P

BRITAIN's record since the war has shown her earnest desire for peace. No one can accuse her of aggressive designs.

The Prime Minister

How nice it would be if some kind soul were to say to the L.C.C.: What will it cost to reproduce the Globe Theatre as it was in the days of Shakespeare, and I will pay for it.

Herbert Morrison, M P

I PREFER the word King to Crown. A crown is a chattel which is stowed in the Tower of London except on ceremonial occasions, but the King is the head and pivot of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Dr Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs

Toothsome

THE Minister of Food, in a written reply, stated "that after derationing the cheaper sweets the size of the ration for the more expensive sweets, essentially chocolates, would be less than the present 1 lb a month. But the total amount, rationed and unrationed, available would be increased."

Translated, this officialese means that soon we shall all be able to buy more sweets. Hurrah!

MY LAND

SHE is a rich and rare land;
O! she's a fresh and fair land;
She is a dear and rare land—
This native land of mine.

She's not a dull or cold land;
No! she's a warm and bold land;
O! she's a true and old land,
This native land of mine.

Could beauty ever guard her,
And virtue still reward her,
No foe would cross her border,
No friend within it pine.

O! she's a fresh and fair land;
O! she's a true and rare land;
Yes, she's a rare and fair land,
This native land of mine.

Thomas Davis

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

YE have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

St Paul

MANNERS REVEAL THE MAN

THE gentle mind by gentle deeds is known.

For a man by nothing is so well bewrayed,
As by his manners.

Edmund Spenser

JUST AN IDEA

As Dr Johnson said, The business of life is to go forward.

Table Tennis at Stockholm

STIRRING and strenuous contests for the World's Table Tennis Championships begin this week in Stockholm, with players from some 20 countries competing.

The contests will include the battle for the Corbillon Cup, the women's world championship, which was won last year, at Wembley, by our own girls. Next week, however, Britain will be without those two former champions Mrs Thomas (formerly Miss Vera Dace), and Miss Dora Beregi, and we shall rely on Miss Peggy Franks, fresh from her recent triumphs on the Continent, Miss Pinkie Barnes, and two players new to the international table tennis "field"—Mrs Crosby and Miss Wood.

Mrs Joan Crosby, of Exeter, the mother of two children, is one of the finest players in the West of England. Miss Adele Wood, of Manchester, who is only 16, has jumped right into the forefront of women players with brilliant all-round play.



Adele Wood in play

Also at the championships will be a team of 16-year-old boys who, under the guidance and captaincy of Tommy Sears, the international player, have been touring Sweden.

The tour, which was organised to give the boys experience and to return the visit to England last year by the Swedish boys' team, included a junior international match and several provincial games.

Children's Railway

IN Hungary a dream of childhood has come true, for children between the ages of 12 and 14 are running a complete railway at Mount Szechenyi. These children are not playing, but really performing a useful job by running this railway which carries passengers from the station at the base to the terminal station near the summit of Mount Szechenyi.

It is a funicular railway, which means that the track is inclined at a very steep angle, and a special apparatus has to be used to enable the trains to travel up and down the mountainous slopes.

The whole service, consisting of three trains, is run with great efficiency; the children wear smart uniforms, and in one week the young railwaymen transported as many as 43,000 passengers.

There are a few adults to help the children. Each train is driven by an adult, though he has two pupils with him on each journey, and there are a few maintenance engineers.

SCHOLAR AND ADVENTURER

AN eccentric Jacobean gentleman, who was a dashing naval captain, a philosopher, an author, something of a scientist, and who married the most famous beauty of his day, today looks down on us from the walls of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. He was Sir Kenelm Digby, and his portrait is one of 26 pictures in the recently-opened exhibition of the gifts to the museum by Sir James Caird. To the eyes of the portrait Van Dyck has imparted something of Digby's romantic soul.

SIR KENELM DIGBY was born in 1603, and before he was three years old his father was executed for his part in the Gunpowder Plot. Sir Kenelm was a brilliant scholar at Oxford when he was 15, but by the time he was 24 he found himself unable to advance in life because of the jealousy



Sir Kenelm Digby

of the Duke of Buckingham, James the First's favourite, so this big, powerful young man decided to embark on some dashing adventure. With the king's approval, he sailed as a privateer with two ships for the Mediterranean.

He soon met with success. Off Gibraltar the young knight, "seeking the bubble reputation even in the cannon's mouth," captured several Spanish and Flemish vessels. Next he took a rich Dutch ship; then, making for Syria, he completely defeated French and Venetian ships in the harbour of Scanderoun, as Alexandria was then called. So dashing was he that English merchantmen, fearing reprisals, begged him to go away!

He married the lovely Venetia Hanley, famed not only for her beauty, but for her intellect. She died after they had been married only eight years, and Ben Jonson, a great friend of Digby's, wrote a series of poems, called Eupheme, in her memory.

Heartbroken, Digby went to live and study for a time in Gresham College. Then he went to France, and became a Roman Catholic; thereafter his life was a curious mixture of study, political intrigue, and journeys between the Continent and England.

In 1642 he was, by order of the House of Commons, imprisoned in a place near Charing Cross, called The Three Tobacco Pipes, and here his interesting conversation delighted his warders and friends who came to visit him. For Digby was a great talker who, it seems, never bored his listeners.

A letter to Parliament from Anne, the queen regent of France, secured his release and he was allowed to go to Paris, where he published his chief philosophical books, called *Of Bodies* and *Of the Immortality of Man's Soul*. Digby was also intensely interested in science, and is said to

have been the first to recognise that plants need oxygen to live. Yet this strange man believed in astrology and alchemy, and he extolled the virtues of a "powder of sympathy" which was supposed to heal a wound, not by being applied to it, but merely by being sprinkled on a bandage after the bandage had been taken from the wound. Sympathy indeed! No wonder John Evelyn, the diarist, called Digby "an errant mountebank."

Nevertheless, Sir Kenelm Digby was a scholarly man, and in 1663 he became one of the original members of the Royal Society.

He died in 1665 after a romantic, adventurous life during which, with all his oddities, he made more friends than enemies.

RECLAIMING THE LITTLE DESERT

IT is hoped to make desert land in the State of Victoria, Australia, fertile enough for settlement and sheep-breeding by covering it with copper and zinc superphosphate dressings. The barren land being considered for experiment is an area of 850 square miles in the south-west, known as the Little Desert.

If the experiment is successful, the Little Desert may provide land for the settlement of many migrants in the next few years. The Little Desert is a continuation of land of a similar barren nature across the border in South Australia, where experts of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research have been experimenting for some years.



Pull's Ferry, Norwich, on the River Wensum

Pull's Ferry, Norwich, on the River Wensum

FIRST INSTALMENT OF ROB ROY, Sir Walter Scott's Romance Told in Pictures

This is a story of mystery and adventure in Scotland at the time of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715. Impetuous young Frank Osbaldistone, the son of a rich and peaceful

London merchant, finds himself mixed up in the intrigues of Rob Roy, who was a kind of Scottish Robin Hood. The story begins in London where, Mr Osbaldistone

senior wants his son Frank to become his partner in the great business he has built up. But Frank says he has no interest in business and wants to become a poet.



Old Mr Osbaldistone declared that if Frank would not come into the business he would have one of his cousins as partner instead. Mr Owen, the trusted clerk of Mr Osbaldistone, pleaded with Frank, but the obstinate young man still refused. In great wrath Frank's father packed him off to Osbaldistone Hall in Northumberland, where lived his cousins, one of whom was to take his place in the London business.



Riding north, Frank fell in with another traveller, Morris, who was nervous about highwaymen. Teasingly, Frank hinted that he himself might be one. Poor Morris was dreadfully scared. At Darlington, a Mr Campbell—who was really Rob Roy—entered the inn, and the landlord said that here was a gentleman who had once defeated seven highwaymen at once. Morris begged "Mr Campbell" to protect him on his journey.



Frank went by himself to the Hall and was welcomed by his uncle Sir Hildebrand Osbaldistone, whose youngest son, Rashleigh, was to take Frank's place in London. Rashleigh was a well-spoken but sinister-looking young man. Diana Vernon, a distant relation who lived at the Hall, told Frank, "If anyone opposes Rashleigh, he is sure to rue it; and if you do him an important service, you may rue it still more."



Next day the family went out hunting. Diana managed to get Frank by herself and, to his amazement, she urged him to escape at once into Scotland. "A man named Morris has been robbed," she said. "He was carrying Government money to pay troops in the north, and also important despatches. It is more than a highway robbery—it is treason, and he has accused you of being one of the robbers!"

Why Has Frank Been Accused and What Can He Do Now? See Next Week's Instalment of This Exciting Story

WHO WAS ROB ROY?

THIS famous outlaw is sometimes thought of as a Highland Robin Hood, but, unlike the English outlaw of Sherwood Forest, Rob Roy was a real person well known to history.

His name was Robert Macgregor Campbell, he was nicknamed Rob Roy because of his red hair, and he lived from 1671 to 1734. His daring exploits became a tradition in Scotland. Wordsworth wrote a poem about him, and Sir Walter Scott has his exciting romance which we begin telling in pictures this week.

Scott, who had talked to old people who could remember the real Rob Roy, said that, apparently "like Robin Hood of England, he was a kind and gentle robber, and while he took from the rich, was liberal in relieving the poor."

They gave him the character of a benevolent and humane man "in his way." He was a man of great physical strength, and by his daring and resourcefulness he defied all efforts to capture him.

Rob Roy lived in a period when the Jacobites were plotting to

restore the Stuarts. They counted on Rob Roy's support, but he probably thought one king no better than another, and he is said to have "had a foot in each camp."

He was present with his men on the Jacobite side at the Battle of Sheriffmuir, 1715, but took no active part in the fighting.

Eventually Robert Macgregor Campbell was pardoned, and he died at Balquhider in 1734.

THE work of restoring the world-famous Temple Church, in London, which was badly damaged by bombing, is now in progress, and, thanks to the generosity of the Glaziers Company, the beautiful east window of the church is being restored and should soon be ready for installing.

The most skilful of artists in stained glass are busy in other parts of the country making good war's ravages by which numerous church windows suffered. Nearly all our old windows,

Model Town

TWICE a week the children of Rye Primary School may be seen in the town studying some ancient building—and this Cinque Port in Sussex has a wealth of such buildings.

They discuss the architecture and make sketches, then return to the school to add another item to the large-scale relief model of Rye that they are making. The model will take many years to complete.

in fact, need examination and treatment. It is found that no fewer than 20 species of lichens attack the glass of windows.

Stouter lichens may be seen eating their way into stone, but some of these dreadful parasites which attack glass are so tiny as to be invisible to the unaided eye. They are carried by the air and establish themselves on glass and slowly destroy it. Colours determine the rate of destruction—purple, red, amber, green, blue, and amethyst become deeply eaten into; grey yields

DOGS INTO DOLLARS

SINCE January 1948 over 400 British dogs have crossed the Atlantic and have earned 250,000 dollars for their country.

Most of these dogs have been prize exhibits at dog shows, and some of them have cost American dog lovers as much as £2000 each, and the cheapest was £100.

The revival of Cruft's International Dog Show started this "dogs into dollars" adventure for so many British dogs. More

than 4000 dogs competed last year, and even more are expected this year. Cocker spaniels were the favourites.

Shortage of meat has caused a decline in the numbers of large dogs in Britain. Alsations still flourish, and the Leonberger—a cross between the St Bernard and the Newfoundland—has recently come to Britain from the Continent and is proving popular. The old-type bloodhounds, with cheeks drooping into rich, furry folds, are growing rare.

Dog fashions have changed much since 1852, when young Charles Cruft, the son of a London jeweller, left his father's trade to serve as shop boy to James Spratt, who had just returned from the United States with an idea of making dog cakes, then unknown in England. Within a few years Charles Cruft was out on the road selling the cakes.

But Charles Cruft did not dream that dogs from the show which bears his name would one day serve their country well by finding so many new and happy homes across the Atlantic.

Parasites That Eat Stained Glass

Final Instalment of Through the Looking Glass, Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy



Alice found herself wearing a crown and standing before a doorway marked "Queen Alice." She knocked in vain, and then an old Frog hobbled up to her. "Isn't there anyone to answer the door?" she asked. "What's it been asking of?" he replied. "Nothing," said Alice. "I've been knocking at it." The Frog muttered "Shouldn't do that. You leave it alone, and it'll leave you alone."



The Frog kicked the door and it opened and Alice was surprised to hear a voice singing. "To the Looking-Glass world it was Alice that said, 'I've a sceptre in hand, I've a crown on my head; Let the Looking-glass creatures, whatever they be, Come and dine with the Red Queen, the White Queen, and me!'" Alice entered a large hall where about fifty guests were sitting waiting at the table.



Alice sat between the Red and White Queens, and when a pudding was placed before her she gave a slice to the Red Queen. "What impertinence!" said the Pudding. "I wonder how you'd like it if I were to cut a slice out of you?" Alice could only gasp. "Make a remark," said the Red Queen. "It's ridiculous to leave all the conversation to the Pudding!" Then things began to happen.



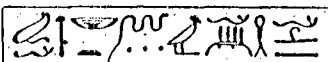
Bottles began fluttering about like birds. The White Queen swam in the soup tureen, and the Red Queen also dwindled to the size of a doll. Thinking she was the cause of the mischief, Alice took hold of her to shake her, but the Red Queen turned into a kitten and Alice woke up in her own room at home. "Kitty," she said "you've been with me all through the Looking-glass world!"

Handwriting—Good and Bad

To read and write comes by nature, says Dogberry, one of Shakespeare's delightful blockheads; but there must be many millions who disagree. There are always boys and girls to whom neat and easy writing comes as naturally as neat drawing comes to others, but the majority of us have to labour heavily at the task, right from our early schooldays, and many never properly acquire the art.

Calligraphy, as fine penmanship is called, must be won by diligent effort, and maintained by equally diligent effort. Ruskin wrote a beautiful hand when he was nine, yet deteriorated sadly with advancing age.

Who can tell how history has been affected by messages miswritten or by messages misread? We do know that such an error

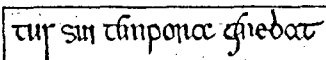


Egyptian

changed the destiny of France and all Europe. Napoleon, directing his last battle from the field of Waterloo, dashed off two pencilled orders, one to Ney, the other to Grouchy, bidding them move their forces and attack in

changed directions. So bad had Napoleon's writing grown at this stage of his career that both notes were misread; neither order was executed, and France suffered a shattering defeat where she might have won the battle and the campaign. Yet Napoleon had been a brilliant penman in his early days!

Equally marked was the deterioration of the famous author



Anglo-Saxon

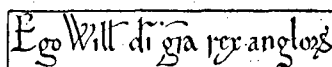
Lord Lytton, of Victorian days. In the course of a House of Commons debate on the Reform Bill, he handed in a written amendment which none of the House officials could decipher. Asked to read it himself, Lord Lytton explained with a blush that his amendment proposed that no man should have a vote unless he could write legibly!

Ben Jonson and Milton (before his blindness) were masters of copperplate writing, as was Dr Samuel Johnson to the end of his 75 years. On the other hand, Shakespeare was a deplorable penman, such signatures of his as we have being composed of

ugly letters, ill-formed and barely readable. Nathaniel Hawthorne and our own well-loved Dean Stanley both left writings that nobody can read.

Dickens and Thackeray both seem to have grown ashamed of their early writing. Dickens changed from the large sprawl of his young manhood to a smaller, neater style; Thackeray quitted his heavy sloping writing for smaller, finer letters. To form small characters was easy for him, for he boasted that he could write the Lord's Prayer on his thumbnail.

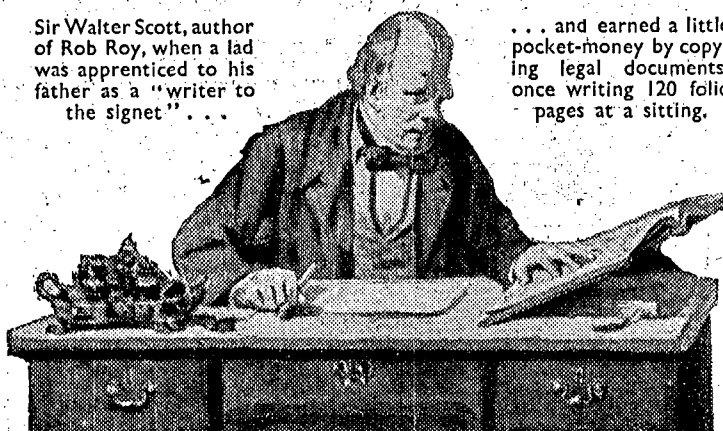
Lord Palmerston, a Prime Minister of Victorian days, was a veritable writing master to ambassadors and the officials of the Foreign Office. He wrote minutes telling them what pen-nibs, what



Eleventh-century

ink, and other materials they should use, and laying down the law as to the formation of their letters, and how these could be joined. Of one whose writing displeased him he once wrote: "Reading Mr R—'s handwriting is like running penknives through

Sir Walter Scott, author of Rob Roy, when a lad was apprenticed to his father as a "writer to the signet" . . .



. . . and earned a little pocket-money by copying legal documents, once writing 120 folio pages at a sitting.

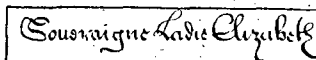
one's eyes." Lord Palmerston did, however, practise what he preached.

Mr Gladstone, a poor writer himself, said that throughout his long public career he had found only two things perfect—the speaking voice of Sir Robert Peel and the handwriting of Lord Palmerston. It was such perfection that Prime Minister Lord Rosebery doubtless had in mind when he said that there was some writing which he would welcome even if it demanded a cheque by return post.

Rosebery's own hand, remaining in many an historic official document, was very neat and slightly sloping; but one of his

friends said that he could not distinguish the writing of Rosebery from that of Cardinal Manning, or Proude, the historian.

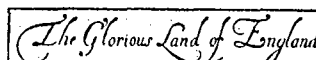
Swinburne paid similar tribute to the fine delicate hand of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who, he said, with astonishment, found writing a positive enjoyment! Swinburne himself, however, wrote a



Sixteenth-century

vile hand, matching those of Carlyle, William Lecky, and Andrew Lang, each of whom caused terror and horror among the compositors who had the dismal task of setting up type from their appalling manuscripts. And Professor Saintsbury, whose literary output was enormous, once declared: "No one alive can make out my writing!"

The immortal unnamed charity boy of whom Sam Weller's father tells, on at last getting through



Seventeenth-century

to the end of his ABC, wondered "if it is worth vile goin' through so much to learn so little." Equally the modern young struggler with a pen may wonder if his laborious efforts are ever likely to be justified by results.

But let us all remember that the best masters of writing were pothook novices at the outset, even Palmerston and Ruskin.

In spite of typewriters, there are those among us at this hour



Victorian

whose feats with pen and ink may eventually equal the distinction gained in the art by famous men considered here, and in their turn, induce future critics to say of our generation, as we say of our forerunners: "Ah, they could write in those days!"

Royal Writers

We have often read of King John signing Magna Carta, but, of course, he never signed it at all, merely fixing his seal, the practice of all the kings for 300 years or so after the Conquest. Richard II is the first English monarch whose signature has come down to us.

From Richard onwards all the kings and queens could write, including even the little Edward V who was murdered in the Tower. Henry VIII, in a letter to Wolsey, states that writing is to him "tedious and painful"; but since his reign all the sovereigns have been excellent writers.

The CN National Handwriting Test

Write a Message to HRH Prince Charles

IMPORTANT news for boys and girls who are under 17! To encourage British schoolchildren to write well the CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER has arranged this great National Test, and now invites schools and teachers to co-operate.

The Test has the very special interest that the words to be written form a Message of Good Will from British children to the infant Prince Charles of Edinburgh. Each entrant has simply to copy the Message—which is given on the special Entry Form—in the style of handwriting taught in his or her school.

There is NO entry fee. The competition is open to all full-time pupils of schools and colleges in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands who are under 17, and Entry Forms are being issued only through schools. Prizes totalling over £500 in value will be awarded for the best entries.

To give everyone an equal opportunity, the test is divided into THREE AGE CLASSES with prizes in each for both pupils and schools—you can thus win for yourself and for your school! In addition, there will be One Thousand Consolation Prizes. Here is the full prize list:

Group A

(For pupils under 8)

FIRST PRIZES

To the School £25

To the Pupil £5

SECOND PRIZES

To the School £10

To the Pupil £3

THIRD PRIZES

To the School £5

To the Pupil £2

Group B

(Pupils 8 to under 11)

FIRST PRIZES

To the School £25

To the Pupil £5

SECOND PRIZES

To the School £10

To the Pupil £3

THIRD PRIZES

To the School £5

To the Pupil £2

Group C

(Pupils 11 to under 17)

FIRST PRIZES

To the School £25

To the Pupil £5

SECOND PRIZES

To the School £10

To the Pupil £3

THIRD PRIZES

To the School £5

To the Pupil £2

Also 1000 Special Consolation Prizes

for other entrants, to be awarded in proportion to the entries received in each group. These prizes will be Gold-Nibbed Fountain-Pens, Hobbies Fretwork Sets, "Just William" Model Theatres, Table Tennis Sets, Books, and Boxes of Artist's Colours. Winners of these will be able to choose their own prizes.

Please note that entries must be on the proper Entry Form issued free through schools. If you would like to enter, show this announcement to your Teacher and (unless the school has already applied) ask him or her kindly to complete the coupon here and send it in.

The test may be done in school or at home, as the Teacher may decide, and the entry is to be signed by the Teacher on completion. When sent in every entry must have affixed to it one of the tokens (marked "£500 Writing Test") now appearing in every copy of C.N. You will find one at the foot of the back page of this issue.

Remember, there is a special age group for you. What is more, you are allowed to use the kind of writing—script, joined script, or cursive—taught at your own school.

The Closing Date for entries is Thursday, March 31, and, when

completed, entries are to be sent in in accordance with the competition rules printed on the Entry Form.

(NB—It is regretted that this Test cannot be extended to schools other than those in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and Channel Islands.)

Please ask your teacher to fill in and send this coupon to CN

To the Editor, CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER,
Room 171, The Fleetway House, London, EC 4 (Comp).

Please send me (post free)..... copies of the CN
National Handwriting Test Entry Forms for my pupils:

PRINCIPAL/FORM
MASTER or MISTRESS

School.....

School Address.....

A NOTE TO TEACHERS. The Entry Form contains the Message which is the Test Passage, space for the pupil's effort, and full rules and particulars. It is for issue only in answer to school application. Teachers are asked to be good enough to assess their requirements as closely as possible, and fill in the total of Forms needed on this application coupon, together with the other particulars. The supply will then be sent *post free*, to be handed out at school. Last date for application for these Forms is February 28. (A 1d stamp only is required if the envelope is sent unsealed!)

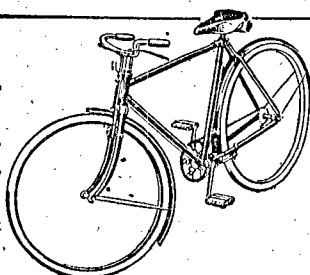
BSA facts on STRENGTH, SPEEDINESS AND SMARTNESS



STRENGTH C. I. Thornton, famous County cricketer, made several hits of 150-160 yards.

SPEED The Cheetah, probably the fastest of all animals, is used in India and Persia for hunting antelopes and other game.

SMARTNESS At the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, the King's Dirk is awarded to the best all-round cadet. Smartness scores points, of course!



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Reliable in every way
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SCOUTS' STAMP FREE

ABSOLUTELY FREE. This very lovely little stamp, as illustrated, was issued by AUSTRALIA to Commemorate the International Boy Scouts' Jamboree, at Yarra Brae, Wonga Park, Victoria, Australia. We will willingly send YOU one ABSOLUTELY FREE, it will enormously add to the interest of YOUR COLLECTION.



It depicts a Uniformed Scout, and was on sale in Australia for a very short time only—from November 15th, 1948, to January 9th, 1949. We have purchased a small supply, and whilst this supply lasts offer one Absolutely Free to each Approval applicant.

To get YOUR stamp, just write and ask for this wonderful Free Scout Stamp, and also ask for our Price List and a selection of our Stamps On Approval (no obligation to purchase any). You must send us 3d. stamps to cover our postages. Write Now.

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Ex-Government Surplus Gauntlets. Brand-new and waterproof material. Five pairs 2/6 or 48/- per gross, post free.

New U.S.A. Waterproof Knee Boots, rubber soles 2/6; post, etc., 1/-.

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When are the DOG DAYS?

The six or eight hottest weeks of Summer are the dog-days (about July 3rd to August 11th). According to the Romans, the Dog-Star Sirius, rising with the Sun, added to the Sun's heat.

The great scarcity of Spratt's Biscuits has "dogged" your dog for years. Now brighter days are coming for him, because although the Spratt's foods he loves are still not as plentiful as we all would wish, more can now be made, so that it's really worth while asking at the shop for good dog foods—SPRATT'S MIXED OVALS, BONIO, DOG CAKES and WEETMEET.

*They're
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when I get
SPRATT'S*

Have you had your copy of "How to look after your Dog"? If not, send for this 20-page handbook, which is obtainable, price 8d., post free, from: Dept. C.N.,

SPRATT'S PATENT LIMITED, 41/47, BOW ROAD, LONDON, E.C.



SHIP FOR DRY LAND.

Packed For Export

A ship that will never sail is under construction in a Paisley workshop three miles from the River Clyde.

She is a tin dredger for Malaya; is 260 feet long, and on completion will be dismantled, packed in crates and shipped to her destination. To guard against mistakes when she is being assembled, the port and star-board sides will be painted in different colours, and as a further guide all plates will be numbered.

The vessel will never be launched, for her home is on dry land, above rich tin deposits. Once she is settled, the surrounding land will be flooded to soften it to allow the ship's chain of buckets to operate by plunging through the crust of the man-made swamp and dredge up tin. A "laundry" in the ship will automatically wash the dredged material as it flows in, and separate the tin from the debris.

The firm building this land ship completed 40 ships last year, but not one was launched. They were all for export—in boxes!

JON'S UNIFORM

WHEN eight-year-old Jon Hill, of Prestwich, was given a book entitled Jimmy and the Little Old Engine he was very interested in the story; but he was even more interested in the announcement on the cover which was headed "Uniform with this series."

After thinking the matter over for some time, Jon wrote to the publishers: "Dear Sir, With my new book Jimmy and the Little Old Engine it says 'Uniform with this series.' I have not had my uniform, and will you please tell me what to do to get one."

The publishers' kindly answer solved his problem in the pleasantest possible way: "Dear Jon," it read, "You are the first person to write to us about the book and the first person to mention the notes on the back of the book. It does not mean uniform as clothing but means books similar to the one you have. We have decided to send you a uniform because you are the first person to write to us about your book."

Shortly afterwards, to his great delight, Jon received a bus conductor's outfit, complete with whistle, tickets, money-bag, and puncher.

This Kind World

"Oh dear, I've dropped my return half in the used-ticket box. However shall I get home?" exclaimed a little old lady on a Taunton bus not long ago. She had come to Taunton for the day from Penzance.

Tauntonians are kindly folk. The bus conductor did not just say, "Sorry, you've had it, ma," and ring the bell twice. None of the other bus passengers objected to the bus being kept waiting for 20 minutes, while the used-ticket box was dismantled. It was a rush job, too, for the old lady's train was due to leave soon. However, at last the box came apart and disgorged, among its hoard of tickets, the vital half for Penzance.

They hurried the old lady to the station and got her there just in time to catch her train home.

A Night in the Coronation Chair SCHOOLBOY PRANK

THE Coronation Chair, with its so-called Stone of Destiny, is one of our greatest national treasures.

Having recently received a message hinting that some injury to the chair was projected, the authorities are taking special precautions at Westminster Abbey to make the safety of the chair and stone doubly sure.

When the Second World War came the chair was sent to Gloucester Cathedral, and there protected by masonry and sand-bags; the famous stone was buried in the precincts of Westminster Abbey.

Scottish legend has it that the coronation stone is that on which Jacob pillowed his head on the night of his vision at Bethel. Afterwards, the legend runs, the stone was taken to Egypt, from there to Spain, from Spain to Ireland, and at last to Scotland, where it was used at the crowning of Scottish kings down to the time of Robert Bruce.

In 1297, however, our Edward the First, during his victorious campaign against the Scots, seized the stone, brought it to England, and set it in an oaken chair which he had made for it. Since that time this chair has served at every coronation in the Abbey where, except for a brief removal to Westminster Hall for the institution of Oliver Cromwell as Protector, it has remained, with the stone, for 652 years.

Examination of the stone by geologists does not support the legends concerning its history. The coronation stone is unlike any stone to be found near Jacob's Bethel; on the contrary, it is a good example of a certain Scottish stone.

Not all who have sat in the Coronation Chair have been sovereigns. For example, a Westminster schoolboy once passed a whole night in the chair.

He glorified in his exploit, and left a record that we may still read. On the seat of the Coronation Chair he carved: P. Abbott slept in this chair, July 1800.

BRITISH MINISTER TO LUXEMBURG

THE announcement that the King has approved the appointment of Mr. Geoffrey Cuthbert Allechin, an inspector in the Foreign Service, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is significant.

This is the first time that Britain has had a separate Minister in Luxembourg. Previously the British Ambassador in Brussels has been also accredited as Minister in Luxembourg. This new development is an indication of the growing importance of the Grand Duchy in the affairs of Western Europe.

Footballer's Window

A VERY unusual stained-glass window has just been unveiled at the Lloyd Hospital, Bridlington. It shows a football scene with the players wearing their club colours, and is a memorial to the members of the Bridlington Central United Football Club who gave their lives in the war. The window, which also bears the emblems of the Navy and Army, was presented to the hospital by the club.



PHOTOGRAPHS any size thrown on the screen approaching life size if desired, at few feet distance from screen. Merely insert any photograph, drawing, stamps, ordinary picture cards, or any documents; you can enlarge to large proportions projecting actual colourings. Why not show your family album on the screen, see the detail as if you were back on the scene once again? Simply plug in your electric light circuit. Send now 79s. 6d. Post and packing 2/6.



40/6. GREAT SURPLUS OFFER. PARATROOP BINOCULARS. Compact, 7 oz. Crystal-clear lenses. Ideal holiday, sporting events, 40s. 6d. V.D. model full-size, in case, leather slings, £310s. Very special 6-lens achromatic model, £519s. 6d., complete in case, &c. All post 1s.



Sectional Centre Poles. All accessories. Circ. 44 ft. Ht. 9 ft. 6 in. £38 15s. complete carry, pd. Marquee 30 ft. x 20 ft. x 14 ft. high. £38 15s. Complete.

All types of Marquees, Tents and Camping equipment. Send 1d. for Bargain List.

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Also NEW MALTA: Large TURKS IS.

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sending 3d. for postage and lists. (WITH-

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buzzer note is variable from high to low

tones. This special offer is made to

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When the Moslem Goes to Mecca

THE distinguished authority on all things Arabian, Mr St John Philby, has been reviewing the pilgrimage to Mecca for 1948 which brought over 350,000 Moslems to the sacred places of Islam. Nearly 100,000 of these pilgrims were from outside Arabia—the largest number since 1929.

It is still the aim of every devout follower of Islam to go once in his lifetime to kiss the sacred stone, the Kaaba, and bow in reverence to the holy places where Mohammed saw his visions, announced his teaching, and delivered his sacred writings. King Ibn Saud has such a firm grip on Arabia that the pilgrimage can now be made in safety.

On to Medina

In 1948 no fewer than 2500 pilgrims arrived at Jedda airport, many of them wealthy Egyptians. Pilgrims ride in trucks, or even Rolls Royce cars, the 65 miles to Mecca, and after a period there go on to Medina, another 245 miles, which is more authentically the home of Mohammed than Mecca.

It was to Medina that Mohammed fled after his persecution in the older sacred city. It was in Medina's mosque that the first historic cry went up, "There is no God but Allah; Mohammed is the prophet of Allah." In Medina, too, Mohammed organised his unique power over the faithful followers, and turned the old idolatrous rights at Mecca—such as kissing the Kaaba stone—into Moslem rites, and ordered all Moslems when they prayed to turn towards Mecca.

The modern journey to Mecca has become a highly-organised affair from which King Ibn Saud draws large revenues. No longer, for instance, can pilgrims sell souvenirs themselves. They must buy them in Mecca, for the city's 130,000 inhabitants depend

chiefly for their livelihood on the business the pilgrimage brings. Camels are still used for transportation from the coast, and some of the most devout walk along the sandy tracks secure from robbers because of Ibn Saud's good government. It is said that a box of silver coins was spilled on the road from Jedda to Mecca recently and not one coin was lost.

Each pilgrim pays a stated charge for the service he employs, and all caravan leaders, interpreters, devotional advisers, chauffeurs, and camel drivers collect the rates and pay so much to the Government. In former years there was a high risk of epidemics breaking out along the line of the pilgrimage, for many pilgrims came from plague-infected countries. Nowadays planes and ships are examined at the ports before pilgrims land, and along the route modern hospitals are maintained by the Government.

Traffic Jams in Mecca

Motor transport across the desert from Persia is another feature of the modern Mecca pilgrimage. Bus loads are deposited in the holy cities in much the same manner as a women's meeting goes for a summer outing in Britain. Over 4000 motor vehicles are in use during the pilgrimage season, causing many serious traffic jams in the streets of old Mecca.

The large number of pilgrims in 1948 is a sign of the prosperity of the Moslem world.

BEDTIME CORNER

Wisest of Them All

"WHEN do you think the thaw will come?" asked the missel-thrush as he perched on the bird table on the snow-covered lawn.

"Don't know," answered the sparrow. "The snow's not terribly deep, anyway, and there's plenty of food put out here every day, so why worry?"

"Well, I want to look out for some nesting-sites really early, for all the best ones were taken last year. And I can't do that when the bushes are snow-covered."

"Go and ask the pigeons, then," suggested the sparrow. "They fly south, so perhaps they may have seen the thaw on its way."

So the missel-thrush flew over the snowy rooftops till he found a pigeon. But the pigeon did not know.

"Go and ask the seagulls in the water-meadows," he suggested. "They fly farther south than I."

So over the snowy water-meadows flew the missel-thrush until he found a seagull. But he didn't know

either. "Go and ask the barn owl on the church tower," he suggested. "He'll know if anyone does."

So up into the church tower the missel-thrush went. But the barn owl also did not know. "I can tell you who will, though," he said. "And give us the signal a day ahead—and that's Mr Mole."

"What? An almost blind animal living down underground know that!" laughed the missel-thrush.

"You wait and see," the owl answered. "I don't know how he knows, but he always does. Come and see me tomorrow."

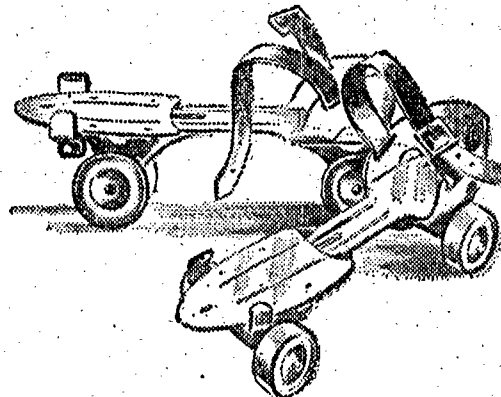
For three days the missel-thrush visited him, but each time the owl said: "Not yet." Then, on the fourth day, he pointed to the field nearby.

There, showing up black against the snow, were lots of new mole hills. "There's Mr Mole's signal to us," the owl explained. "He always starts digging new tunnels when the thaw is coming." And that night the thaw came.



a spaniel pup . . .

or a pair of skates?



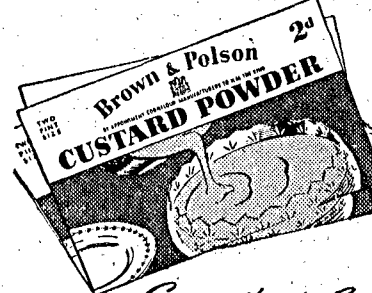
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THE BRAN TUB

SOMETHING MISSING

JACK: Harry is mighty proud of his voice.

Dick: Yes; he had a course of lessons by post, you know.

Jack: H'm! Lots of his letters must have gone astray, I'm afraid.

Pound Cake

THERE was an old baker named Jake,
Who baked a remarkable cake.
His kind-hearted daughter
Threw bits in the water,
And sunk all the ducks on the lake.

COUNTRYSIDE FLOWERS

Early-Blooming Coltsfoot

ONE of the first flowers to appear, Coltsfoot often blooms in February. The yellow dandelion-like flowers thrive where the soil is poor and heavy. They are often seen brightening railway embankments and pieces of waste ground, as well as fields and meadows. The seeds become



crowned with down and are wind-borne. The leaves appear much later than the flowers. Their under-sides are covered with white down, which was at one time used as tinder. Coltsfoot is used by herbalists, being considered a remedy for chest troubles.

WHO IS HE?

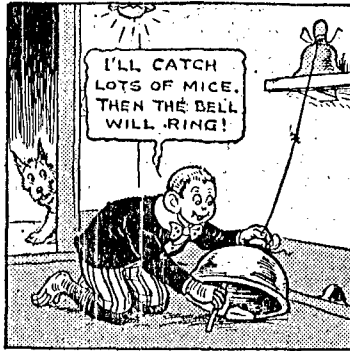
TAKE from him one letter and he will remain the same. Take another letter from him and he still retains his name and calling. Go on taking letters from him until he has one left: he still remains the same, and the more letters you take away the more you realise his worth.

Answer next week

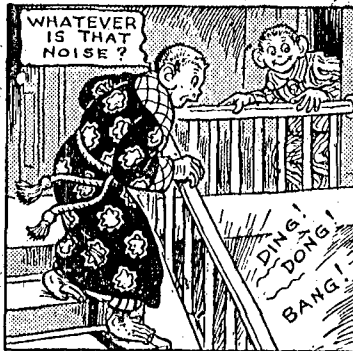
Patent Leather Hint

SCRATCHES on patent leather will hardly show if you treat them in this way. Mix equal parts of olive oil and black ink and rub the mixture into each scratch. After polishing the surface with a soft rag the scratches will be almost invisible.

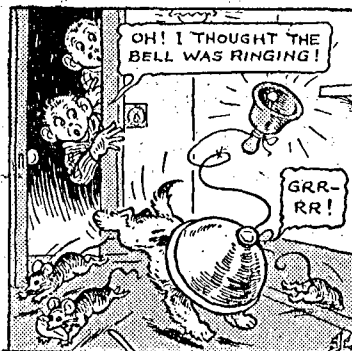
"That Rings a Bell," Said Jacko



"Bring-em-back-alive" Jacko decided to do a spot of trapping.



And judging by the awful din his ruse had succeeded.



But it was Bouncer who had succeeded—in wrecking his plans.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Long-eared Bats. An extra heavy downpour sent the children scurrying into the shelter of the old barn. It was quite dark inside, but Don had his torch.

"Ugh! Bats!" exclaimed Ann, pointing to the rafters, where several of the odd-looking creatures were suspended, asleep.

"Long-eared Bats," said Farmer Gray briefly, when told of the barn's occupants.

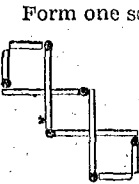
"Their ears didn't look particularly long," said Don doubtfully.

"When these Bats go to sleep they first tuck an ear under each wing. In this manner these sensitive organs are protected," explained the farmer.

A Match Trick

ASK a friend to take six matches, and with them make three equal squares.

You can tell him that there is a slight catch in the trick, but, even so, he is not likely to guess it. When he has had one or two unsuccessful tries, show him how it is done.



Form one square by joining two X's made by four of the matches, then bend in half at right angles the other two matches, and with them complete the squares on the outer sides of the crossed matches, as shown here.

HOT AND COLD

ROARED a peppery colonel named Rose,
"I'm a fussy old man, I suppose;
But I like my soup hot,
And this portion I've got,
Is as cold as a Polar Bear's nose."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Uranus is in the south and Saturn is in the south-east. In the morning



Venus and Jupiter are low in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 7.30 on Friday evening, Feb. 4.

ON THE TRAIL

THE lights were dim, all voices hushed;

The hunter told his tales
Of how he'd hunted jungle beasts,
And crocodiles, and whales.

"But the event that comes to mind,"

He said, "That still can chill,
Was when a hundred cannibals
Had one intent—to kill.

"I fixed them with unflinching eyes;
They ran like boys to tea."

He paused, then with a smile,
Went on:

"They ran—but after me."

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, February 2, to Tuesday, February 8.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Adventurous Alley Cats. 5.15 Regional Round. *North*, 5.0 Young Artists; *Children's Newsreel*. *Scottish*, 5.0 Stumpy Sings on Wednesdays Too; *Dance Tunes*; *Quiz*.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Stormy Petrel (5); *Midland*, 5.0 Catch that Spider! (5); Harry Engleman and his Players; The Red-Pepper Tree—a story. *Scottish*, 5.0 Record Breakers (Part 1); *Songs*. *Welsh*, 5.0 Monthly Magazine, in *Welsh*. 5.30 Junior Radio Record.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Mai-Da of the Silver-Red Needle—a story; *Games*. 5.40 Festivals in China. *N. Ireland*, 5.0 Spelling Bee; *Music*; *Books* Worth Reading.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Jennings at School (6). 5.35 Fresh Fields. *N. Ireland*, 5.0 Ulster Magazine, which consists of a Mr Murphy and Timothy John story; *Nature* Diary; Peter Comes In From the Farm; *Songs*; and a Competition. *West*, 5.0 Busy and Uge in South America; Belmont College Choir; My Pet Spider—a talk.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Verse and Music. East Ham Grammar School for Girls' Choir. *North*, 5.0 Story; *Recital*.

MONDAY, 5.0 Bitty and the Bears (7). 5.15 Victorian Nursery Songs. 5.30 Said the Cat to the Dog (21). *Midland*, 5.15 Turves Green Secondary Modern School Choir; Tales of a Tawny Owl; The Musical Chair. *North*, 5.0 Wandering with Nomad; *Music*; *Talk*. *Scottish*, 5.0 Nature Scrapbook.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Mr Otter's Honey-Files; *Gramophone*. 5.25 Nature Parliament. *N. Ireland*, 5.0 Sports Quiz; *News Talk*; *Songs*. *Scottish*, 5.0 A Tammy Toot Story; *Down at the Mains*. *Welsh*, 5.0 Story and Play, in *Welsh*.

QUIET!

THE expression "quiet enough to hear a pin drop" is said to have originated at auction sales once held at Lloyd's Coffee House in London.

Instead of using a hammer the auctioneer stuck a pin into a lighted candle, and bids were made until the pin fell out of the melted grease. The company often became very silent when the pin was about to fall.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

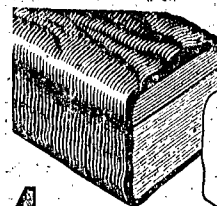
What Town is This?
Oxford

MEMOIR	SO
Y	PREFIX
S	PEOPLE
THORN	ASP
LOT	AMITE
CUE	SALAD
SNAILS	A
REPTILE	L
ED	TOSSSES

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